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Annie debuts Feb. 18
 Page 5

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INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 51 VOLUME 15

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■ **COMMUNITY:** Turkey and all the trimmings to be served up at 15th annual Port Colborne feast



No one to go hungry on Christmas Day

VICTORIA GRAY
 InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — For some people Christmas can feel like a lonely time, but in Niagara it

doesn't have to.

Jack O'Neil, president of the Port Colborne Social Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens, Friends Over 55, and a member of the Niagara Gatekeepers, believes Christmas is a time when the suicide rate of seniors doubles.

VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo
 Jack O'Neil, president of the Port Colborne Social Recreation Centre for Senior Citizens, Friends Over 55, wants everyone in the community to know they are welcome to attend the 15th annual Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day at Port Colborne High School.

"They can feel like nobody cares," he said. "When there's nobody to visit them they think, 'Who cares?'" So we say, "These people are important to us. Come on and have Christmas Day with us, or we'll come make it Christmas Day for you."

see DINNER | page 2

Geoff Tait
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■ DINNER

'The community is worth it'

FROM PAGE 1

O'Neil, Larry Olm and many volunteers invite Port Colborne and surrounding communities to their 15th annual Community Christmas Dinner on Dec. 25 in the Port Colborne High School cafeteria.

Mayor Vance Badaway,

members of the Port Colborne fire department and many dedicated volunteers will serve Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. Doors open at 12:30 p.m., dinner is served at 1 p.m. and families, friends, seniors and anyone else who wants to join in is welcome

to stay until they've had their fill.

"We also delivered 38 meals last year to those who couldn't make it out," O'Neil said.

"And the police — these guys work 12-hour shifts to keep our town safe, so we want them to have a nice

hot Christmas dinner, so we bring it to the station."

Gifts will also be given out.

O'Neil said organizers go big and do the meal right. When they deliver a meal, there's usually enough for leftovers.

"Nobody goes home hungry, we won't let them,"

he said.

Free transportation to the meal is available from Port Taxi.

Donations from the community, businesses and local service clubs make it possible to offer up to 300 people a quality meal with what O'Neil calls "an extended

family."

"The community is worth it. They give back to us. This is why we feel that they all deserve to have something nice on Christmas day because it's a great city," he said.

vgray@wellandtribune.ca

■ DIGNITY FOR ALL: Petition supports Bill C-233

Poverty costs us all

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Poverty costs all of us.

"Whether it's poor health, crime, a loss of productivity, any number of things ... it costs us dearly," says Lori Kleinsmith, health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre.

"Politicians may say poverty is not on the radar. They say constituents are too worried about jobs and the economy; those are valid things, but most people don't recognize what poverty costs us."

Kleinsmith says many clients of the health centre have lived in poverty conditions and Bridges staff have seen what it's done to them.

"More needs to be done. Advocacy is part of what we do and we're trying to mobilize people around this issue."

Kleinsmith says that's why Bridges is piggybacking on a Dignity for All's campaign to draw more attention to a complex issue and action needs to be taken on all levels.

Though various levels of government put money toward reducing poverty, it's not enough. Most of the approaches taken, Kleinsmith says, are Band-

Commons.

"Since then, the Senate has come out with a report and the National Council of Welfare came out with a report called The Dollars and Sense of Solving Poverty. That report lays out an economic rationale for eliminating poverty and it has the evidence behind it."

Kleinsmith says an economic argument for eliminating poverty is something that can be brought before all levels of government in Canada.

"Over the last 30 years, even when the economy has been at it best, we still had 10% of the population living in poverty. With the recent recession, the numbers are higher than that."

And while many people think of those living in poverty as people who are homeless or on welfare, one in three people living in poverty have jobs and an education.

"Living in poverty has nothing to do with having a job or education. Poverty is a complex issue and action needs to be taken on all levels."

What needs to happen, she adds, is an investment approach.

"We either pay now or pay later."



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo
Bridges Community Health Centre health promoter Lori Kleinsmith holds up a petition from Dignity for All calling for the elimination of poverty in Canada.

Over the last 30 years, even when the economy has been at it best, we still had 10% of the population living in poverty. With the recent recession, the numbers are higher than that."

Lori Kleinsmith, health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre

Aid solutions.

"They never really go far enough for true change to happen."

"What needs to happen, she adds, is an investment approach."

"We either pay now or pay later."

With Canada not having a federal poverty reduction strategy, there is a real need for collaboration between the provinces and federal government, she says.

"It's too big of an issue for anyone to take on their own. There is a role to be

played at all levels when it comes to reducing and addressing poverty."

Even at the local level, policies, like an increase in taxes, can affect people who are living in poverty.

Kleinsmith says if there was an overarching national poverty reduction policy, it could set goals and timelines and keep track of progress being made.

"Politicians need to hear from constituents that poverty is an issue and something needs to be done," she says.

Kleinsmith has shared the petition with a number of her contacts and hopes others can do the same.

Bridges has a copy of it online — www.bridgeschc.ca — that can be printed. The petitions, with a minimum 25 signatures, can be taken to local MP offices or dropped off at Bridges in Port Colborne at 177 King St. For more information on Dignity for All, see www.dignityforall.ca. To see the National Council of Welfare's report, check www.ncw.gc.ca/l3bd.2.1ls@-eng.

portraits

■ SURFING

Board meetings at Holloway Bay



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos

A surfer cuts through a wave at Holloway Bay on Dec. 16. Despite the rain and chilly waters, several surfers took to the waters off of Port Colborne to take advantage of the waves. Lake Erie has drawn surfers since the 1960s and on this day, there were surfers from California and South America in the water.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photos

A surfer flies off his board after a successful ride at Holloway Bay on Dec. 15.

INPORT NEWS

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ourview

Poverty costs all of us

Christmas just two days away, there will be many families that go without gifts this year because they simply don't have enough money.

What's even more troubling is that some of these families may go without food over the holiday.

Far too many people in Niagara, Ontario and Canada live in poverty and can't afford gifts for their children or, in some cases, food. They have to make a choice between eating or paying the rent.

While there are many groups out there that help others by this time of year, once the holiday season is over, the people living in poverty are still living in poverty. And that can't be forgotten.

Bridges Community Health Centre wants to see poverty eradicated and that's why it's thrown its support behind Bill C-253.

The private member's bill calls for the elimination of poverty in Canada. It's the second time the bill has been before Parliament; a version died last year in the House of Commons.

Since that time, Lori Kleinsmith, health promoter at Bridges, said the Senate has come out with a report on poverty and the National Council of Welfare came out with a report called *The Dollars and Sense of Solving Poverty*. That report lays out an economic rationale for eliminating poverty and it has the evidence behind it.

An economic argument for eliminating poverty is something that can be brought before all levels of government in Canada.

"Politicians may say poverty is not on the radar. They say constituents are too worried about jobs and the economy; those are valid things, but most people don't recognize what poverty costs us."

Poverty can cause poor health, crime and a loss of productivity.

All things that affect every Canadian whether they think it does or not. An increase in poor health can mean longer wait times in hospitals and increased costs in the health care system. Poor health can lead a person to miss work, which costs employers, and in turn can cause a loss of productivity as well.

Though various levels of government put money toward reducing poverty, it's not enough. Most of the approaches taken, Kleinsmith said, are Band-Aid solutions.

"They never really go far enough for true change to happen."

What needs to happen, she adds, is an investment approach.

"We either pay now or pay later."

I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

The countdown is over. For me there's only one more sleep until the day when I'll preside at maybe the most anticipated worship services of the year. Most kids have two more sleeps until Christmas morning so tomorrow they'll just be bouncing off the walls with excitement.

The build up toward this coming weekend has been gradual but steady in my life, home, and family. Back in November we found some radio stations playing Christmas music, every day, all day. Some people think it's too soon and too much. Well, that's fine, everyone's entitled to their opinion. But I love the Christmas music. And it only gets played for a short time. It just wouldn't seem right in May or July or September but if you can stretch it out by starting in November and playing it into the first few weeks of January, I'm alright with that.

Our house was decorated inside and out, top to bottom, by the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27. The tree doesn't go up until now. We go out and cut a tree about a week before Christmas. That way I'll last until January 6. But the decorations create an atmosphere and help bring out a spirit through the whole month.

We also start watching our dozens of

Christmas movies, most now on DVD but a few still on VHS. It probably takes about a month to see them all. Bing Crosby and Tim Allen are definitely a part of our viewing, as well as cartoon favourites like Rudolph and the Little Drummer Boy.

So far I haven't said anything about the "real" meaning of Christmas in all of this build up and preparation. Well, my whole life long the church has been a part of my Christmas. Celebrations and programs at the church have always filled the month leading up to Christmas.

As a child we'd get plenty of practice for the Sunday School Pageant. As a teenager I joined the choir and we'd begin weeks ahead of time to rehearse the music for the Christmas services. Our church youth group would go out one evening before Christmas singing carols for some of our shut-in members.

And certainly one of the highlights of every Christmas was always the Christmas Eve worship service. The church was always fuller than on any other day of the year. People who may not have come any other time of the year, or just came infrequently, or came home out of town to spend Christmas with family, they'd come to church on Christmas Eve. It just wouldn't be Christmas without it.

At the Christmas Eve service you get to hear the familiar old story, the one with the angels and the shepherds in the

fields. "Glory to God in the highest!" And of course baby Jesus bedded down in a manger, an animal feed trough, because they couldn't find any other lodging in the crowded town that night. And you sing, those beautiful favourite old carols, always ending with Silent Night as the lights are dimmed.

Things haven't changed all that much, at least not in my church, and I'd guess not in others either. The crowds may be smaller, but all that means is that you won't have to stand through the whole service because you came at the last minute and all the seats were taken. The story is the same. Most of the carols are probably familiar. Silent Night hasn't changed except in the new hymn book the thy's have been changed to your's but nobody will mind if you sing it the old way.

Treat yourself this Christmas. Go to church. If you went to a church in years gone by but you don't go anymore, go back this Christmas. If you didn't grow up around here so your church isn't there, find a church of the "brand" you once knew and go there. If you've never been to a church but maybe you're curious about the one in your neighbourhood, or the one near your place of work, or one you walk or drive past when you're out and about, go check it out this Christmas.

SEE I'VE BEEN THINKING | page 5

readers views

CANWEA Fairy Tales

Re: Letter from Chris Forrest - In Port 16 Dec 2011 p.12

Mr. Forrest claims to be a part of the wind energy "industry" I think he exaggerates as he is only a spokesman for CANWEA, a trade association for the "industry" whose only role in life is to promote industrial wind turbines and at the same time ignore any evidence to suggest there are negative impacts associated with communities forced to live in proximity to them.

There is a report titled *Renewable Energy Matters - Campaign Outline*, dated Oct. 19, 2010. It was written by a firm of consultants to specifically plan a campaign to sell industrial wind projects to the Canadian public in the run up to this year's provincial election. CANWEA (wind) and CANSLAR (solar) were both identified as agencies to be a part of this campaign.

Two quotes from page one of this report:

1. "...Support the broader government plan for sustainable contracting for wind and solar through the FIT Program..."

2. "...In the past, the critical to 'winning' the issue in the political/public/media away from just price to include key value attributes such as jobs, clean air, firm incomes etc..."

So, I have a few questions for Mr. Forrest:

i) Does CANWEA support Ontario's new energy minister's recent promise to plan on reducing the costs to Ontario taxpayers by reducing the FIT subsidies for wind and solar energy?

ii) Will CANWEA confirm the exact number of 'green jobs' in Ontario produced directly by the wind and solar industries and will he also confirm just how many are long term and sustainable jobs?

iii) Will CANWEA confirm how much green energy worldwide has contributed to the reduction in worldwide carbon

emissions in the past five years?

iv) Within Niagara and its surroundings, there is huge industrial wind project is being planned. How many registered farmers are there and how many of them will benefit from contracts with the two industrial wind energy companies offering contracts?

TM, Forrest and CANWEA still refuse to accept mounting evidence that industrial wind turbines can cause negative health effects to some living in close proximity, even after they themselves admitted as only recently, and if they can just ignore the provincial governments recent confession that they had lied and in fact had received hundreds of complaints from those living close to industrial wind turbines, then I offer the above questions as fairly simple and straightforward and deserving of answers from CANWEA.

Andrew Watts
Wainfleet

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■ COSTELLO

Cast fine-tuning act for Feb. 18 debut

FROM PAGE 5

The cast and crew, consisting of about 80 individuals, have begun rehearsing twice a week in anticipation of show time. With

the final production at about three hours, they have been putting upwards of eight hours per week into rehearsals.

The seven-month commitment

has made for a fun winter hobby for the group.

Fifteen-year old Bethany Ricker plays the title role and is accompanied by Bill Marshall

as Bert Healy, Shane Snider as President Roosevelt, Deb Albrecht as Grace, Jamie Mowat as Daddy Warbucks, Melanie Hines-Lapante as Miss Hannigan, Melinda Feta as Lily, Tim Barnal as Drake and Barry Snider as Rooster.

Performers of all ages make up the group of orphans, chorus members, dancers and extras needed to bring the musical to life. There are also many helping hands behind the scenes working with costumes, makeup, props and organization to ensure the show goes off without a hitch.

Stage director Anne Converser, who shares the job with her husband Phil, said many cast and crew members work double duty and volunteer in several aspects of the production.

She said that although putting together a large-scale production can be challenging, the team has collaborated efficiently and everything is running smoothly as a result.

"We have such good people as heads of department," she said. "It's like a well-oiled machine."

Annie features a wide variety of talents as the family-oriented musical brings together young children and seasoned adults, a concept that Converser said makes the production more fun.

Although the cast is set to take the stage soon, there is also much to be done backstage before the curtain rises.

The Annie production features about eight different sets, including

one that features New York's Brooklyn Bridge.

"His creativity is just fantastic," said Phil Converser of set designer Jim Crawford who is behind the new creations.

Sets will be brought in to the auditorium next month as well as the orchestra providing the soundtrack, adding new layers to the rehearsal process.

"Each step requires the cast to adapt to something new," said Phil Converser, adding the piece-by-piece process means change happens in small doses as the cast leads up to the big day.

With the entire show blocked, it is now just a matter of tweaking scenes and making the adjustments that will complete the package.

Anne Converser said she is excited to see the group's work play out in front of a crowd.

"We can't wait to put it on for our audience," she said.

Having been a part of the community since 1945, the Port Colborne Operatic Society brings together talent from across the region as it works to bring Broadway to the lakeside city each year.

The Port Colborne Operatic Society's production of Annie will make its debut on Feb. 18 at the Lakeshore Catholic High School auditorium and will return to the stage on Feb. 19, 25 and 26, and March 2, 3, and 4 with both matinee and evening performances.

Tickets are \$20 each and are available through the Showboat Theatre Box Office at 296 Fielden Ave. Stop by between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. from Monday to Friday to pick up a ticket or order by phone by calling 905-834-0833 or 1-888-870-8181.

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■ **RATHFON RD.:** Area home to wetland and forest

Jericho House looking to expand natural areas

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Jericho House is surrounded by Carolinian forest and wetlands and Brother Bill Carrothers and Sister Jacque Keefe want to bring those natural features a bit closer to the Rathfon Rd. centre.

The two, along with John Dekker, a former Niagara Catholic District School Board trustee, made a presentation to Wainfleet council to ask for relief from property standard bylaws to allow for the naturalization of the property.

"We want to harmonize the building, the property and the programs," said Carrothers.

He said there are many benefits to natural surroundings being close to the

centre, which opened this year. Using natural plants and grasses, along with



Carrothers

area, he added.

The centre worked with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to site the building when it was constructed. It's original location would have been just up the road from where it is now, but that area is part a Carolinian forest and wetlands.

Carrothers said they wanted to preserve that forest and add to it now.



Keefe

Council heard the NPCA is supportive of Jericho House's request and will work with the organization to plan out where things

should go. The Niagara Falls Nature Club has already donated trees and shrubs that have been planted.

With the centre set to host an event in 2012, for young people to talk about environmental concerns, the three told council it was a good time to approach with their request.

Keefe said they wanted to fit the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Prairie-style building into the natural surroundings.



Dekker

"We want to be environmentally responsible," Keefe said the plan for the naturalization of the property will be developed in a manner to promote the diversity that Niagara has to offer when it comes to the land.

"It promotes native plants, which are low maintenance and very aesthetically pleasing."

Some of the plants, she said, will be ones that attract

butterflies and bees, in the hopes of seeing those species increase.

Dekker said in the past year, land around the building has been built up with topsoil, bushes, trees, grass and plants. Oak trees and native shrubs have already gone in and plants were added near the front to act as a windbreak.

He said Jericho House would consult with the NPCA as each area around the site is planted.

"It will provide a lovely setting," he said.

Ald. David Wyatt applauded Jericho House for having the vision to take a look at the landscape and make the building fit in the natural surrounding.

He asked if the three had landscape drawings council could look at to see what the property will look like.

Dekker said the plans were to be developed over the winter.

Ald. Richard Dykstra asked if there were anything in the property standards bylaw that dealt with naturalization of properties.

John Boerema, Wainfleet's new bylaw enforcement officer and chief building official, said there's nothing in the bylaws now that recognize natural areas.

"That could be addressed and changed, but there should be some controls in place in order for people to do it," he said.

Boerema said he'd prepare a report on naturalization and criteria that would have to be met to allow for it on any property in the township.

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■ POLICING: Symonds honoured for 34 years of service



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Supt. Brent Symonds, a 34-year veteran with Niagara Regional Police, was honoured by Port Colborne city council Monday night for his many years of service. In honour of his recent retirement, Symonds was presented with a plaque from the city by Mayor Vance Badaway.

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■ GAS PAINS: Councillor claims Port Colborne residents getting gouged at the pumps



Pumped up about prices

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Bill Steele is tired of getting gouged at the pumps.

The Ward 1 Port Colborne councillor would like to see something done about the cost of gas in Port Colborne, which he feels is often higher than in surrounding communities.

In the past few weeks, gas

prices in the lakeside city have remained consistently five to six cents per litre higher than in neighbouring municipalities, he told city council Monday night.

The same concern was raised by Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet during a previous council meeting, though little discussion was had at the time.

see GAS PAINS | page 11

ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo

Bill Steele, a Ward 1 Port Colborne councillor, fills his pickup truck at the Esso station in Wainfleet, last week, where gasoline was three cents less a litre than the price of gas in Port Colborne. City council supported a motion he made at a council meeting to ask the provincial and federal competition bureaus to investigate why gas prices are consistently higher in Port Colborne compared to surrounding communities.



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■ GAS PAINS

High costs driving councillor out of town to fill up

FROM PAGE 10

Steele asked that council support a motion, which was approved, to approach the provincial and federal competition bureaus to have the matter investigated.

Though he stressed he's not making any accusations about what the cause is locally, he cited an instance

in Buffalo recently where gas dealers were found by the Bureau of Competition in the U.S. to be conspiring to set prices.

"I'm not against competition, but if there's collusion to set prices, that's illegal."

High gas prices are not only affecting consumers at the pumps, Steele said.

They put the burden on local businesses to raise their prices on products due to increased costs incurred.

"This is something that affects us every day," he said.

"It's ridiculous that we're being gouged in our community every day."

Steele's remarks prompted

a cautionary note from Ward
1 Coun. Dave Elliott.

"I just don't want to put forth the image that we're targeting managers (of the gas stations)," Elliott said.

"They might be under pressure from national retailers ... there may be other factors at play."

Responded Steele: "That's

why the competition bureau is out there. They'll pinpoint where it's coming from."

Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner said he got an "uneasy feeling" when the discussion began in council chambers about "dictating prices."

If residents were that concerned with gas prices, they would be making the short

trip to neighbouring communities instead of staying in town to fill up, he said.

Steele admitted he's recently begun avoiding the purchase of gas in Port Colborne due to the high cost.

"I hate to say that because I like to buy local as often as I can."

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■ ROBOTICS: Port High team returns home with Build Award



LINDSAY COSTELLO InPort News Photo

Sara Dilts, Mathew Pilon, Riley O'Hara and Zack Furry, members of Port Colborne High School's Blue Bots robotics team, took home the Build Award and the fourth place spot at the Southern Ontario VEX Robotics Championships on Dec. 10. Absent is Kyle Traver.

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■ WELLNESS CENTRE: Seat sale for arena



LINDSAY COSTELLO Tribune Photo

Coun. Bill Steele, chief administrative officer Bob Hell, Tom Lannan and Mayor Vance Badaway showcase one of the 1,000 arena seats that will be personalized as part of the latest fundraising campaign in support of the Vale Health and Wellness Centre. Names can be engraved on the seats, which will be installed in the facility's main arena, for a \$200 donation.

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■ **MUNICIPAL FINANCE:** Council flip-flops on service centre deal at Sugarloaf marina

Marlon contract buoyed then sunk

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort NewsStaff

of change are sailing into Sugarloaf Harbour Marina.

Bids to operate the marina's service centre for the 2012 season were

reviewed by council last week.

During the committee-of-the-whole portion of the evening, a staff recommendation to award the con-

tract to longtime service provider Marlon Marine Inc. was approved in block without discussion.

But in a surprising turn of events, council later reversed its committee decision, awarding the contract to Port Colborne Yacht Harbour and Marine Ltd. Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele pulled the report regarding the marina and requested a recorded vote.

Opposed to awarding the contract to Marlon Marine were Steele, Ward 2 Couns. Angie Desmarais and Yvon Doucet, Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny, Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters and Mayor Vance Badawey.

In favour were Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott, Ward 3 Coun. Frank Danch and Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner.

In defeating the motion, chief administrative officer Bob Heil said council had three options: accept the only other bid (Port Colborne Yacht Harbour), direct staff to go back and undertake the RFP process again, or run the marina in-house using existing city staff.

Though operating in-house was an option, the city does not have the resources or the equipment to properly continue the work at the marina, said Peter Senese, the city's director of community and corporate services.

With only two bids coming in when the RFP was issued not long ago, Bodner questioned whether the city was "going to waste time and money doing it again."

Doucet then put forth a motion to award the contract to Port Colborne Yacht Harbour and Marine.

A recorded vote was again called. In favour were Butters, Desmarais, Doucet, Kenny, Steele and Badawey.

Opposed were Bodner, Danch and Elliott.

Marlon Marine co-owner Greg Gregowski was at the meeting, but left after the decision was passed in committee. It was only later that he learned the decision had been reversed and ratified by council.

He questioned why council would award the contract to a bidder that provides less revenue to the city, particularly at a time when the municipality's budget is so tight.

During the meeting, Heil indicated it is council's right to choose the bid best suited for the city, regardless of whether it's the lowest.

According to the report, the gross financial return to the city based on Marlon Marine's bid and historical level of activity at the marina — would be \$31,000. An additional \$7,500 would also be collected as part of lift-in and lift-out charges and placed in reserves for capital maintenance and replacement of the marina's travel lift.

Port Colborne Yacht Harbour will bring the city \$25,400, as well as an additional \$3,750 from lift-in and out charges.

The report states that because both bidders have an "excellent service reputation," staff believe the only consideration separating the two is the proposed revenue to the city.

Next year the city will be looking for an operator for the entire Sugarloaf Harbour Complex with a start date of Jan. 1, 2013, and initial operating period of five years.

Marlon Marine's current lease expires Dec. 31.

Gregowski said he will be meeting with the city on Friday to discuss Monday's outcome.

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■ **PORT COLBORNE CITY HALL:** Big bucks on new doorway

Facelift for 'Mr. Ugly'

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort NewsStaff

PORT COLBORNE — It looks like "Mr. Ugly" is getting a facelift. But it won't come cheap.

Council has approved a second design option for the front entrance vestibule at city hall, scrapping an original design and its \$37,000 price tag.

Although the original design was approved in April, work was halted soon after it began due to concerns over how the project looked. About \$12,000 worth of work was completed before the project was put

on hold.

Changes to the front entrance were necessary due to an influx of cold air rushing in in cooler months and rushing out from the air-conditioned building in the summer, causing energy inefficiency.

The original design extended the front entranceway and added a second set of doors to stop the unwanted air flow.

A second design with a \$122,000 price tag was brought to the table by staff during municipal budget deliberations on Dec. 15.

see **CITY HALL** | page 15

■ CITY HALL

Revised estimate on design totals \$103,709

FROM PAGE 14

Last week, staff presented a revised estimate on the second design totalling \$103,709. The new design spans two storeys and uses glass to enclose the front portion of the building where open columns now stand. It would be used in part as a bus shelter.

"That's still a high price to me," said Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott, who suggested council stick with the original design.

Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet disagreed. "I'd rather wait another year until the money is available so we can do it properly."

When city hall was built in 1995-96, the glass now proposed to enclose the front of the building was included in the original design, Doucet said.

"We had the glass in there, but we took it out to save money," he told council. "Sometimes when you try to save money it comes back to bite you. It should've been done in the first place."

Doucet said people in the community are now calling the vestibule "Mr. Ugly" after Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny coined the nickname at the last council meeting.

As city hall is a central part of Port Colborne, he said he could not support "having something we call that, here."

He encouraged council to wait a year to see the job done properly.

Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner said he made a mistake in April when he voted in favour of the original design. When work began on the project, it looked very different than he had originally envisioned.

"But I don't want to compound one mistake with another," he said, unable to support moving forward with the original design.

He suggested council look at debenturing money for the project. The cost breakdown includes \$15,000 in transit reserve funds for the bus shelter, \$37,000 earmarked in 2011 for the project and \$51,709 that would be added to the 2012 tax levy.

"It's still \$100,000 for a doorway," Elliott complained.

"We're spending taxpayer dollars on doors."

Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele put forth a motion to accept

the revised estimate of \$103,709 presented by staff, which was carried after a tie-breaking vote by Mayor Vance Badawey.

A recorded vote was requested by Elliott. In favour of the revised second option were Badawey, Bodner, Ward 2 Coun. Angie

Desmarais, Doucet and Steele. Opposed were Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters, Ward 3 Coun. Frank Danch, Elliott and Kenny.



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■ **ECONOMY:** \$7M in economic activity linked to festival; including \$2.1M new to the area

Multimillion-dollar Canal Days splash

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival brought \$2.1 million into Port Colborne this summer.

Council was recently presented with findings of the festival's economic impact study. Through the Ministry of

Tourism and Culture's Celebrate Ontario program, Port Colborne received a grant to hire Enigma Research Corp. to conduct the study during this year's four-day event.

In total, 600 people were surveyed and asked a variety of questions, including where they were visiting from, how much they spent, how long they were

staying in Port Colborne, and what attractions drew them to the festival.

It was determined that Canal Days brought \$2.1 million into the local economy based on non-local visitor spending, Enigma senior partner Michael Harker told councillors.

Local residents, which include people visiting from within 40

kilometres of the lakeside city, spent \$4.9 million in relation to the civic holiday weekend event.

That figure is not included in the festival's economic impact, however, because it's money that would have been spent locally in Niagara anyway, Harker said.

But Port Colborne, he added, can say that Canal Days created \$7 million in "economic

activity."

The \$2.1 million in new spending supports the equivalent of 42 full-year jobs, Harker said.

While that does not mean 42 new jobs are created by Canal Days, it does mean if the festival ceased to exist "the economy would not be able to support as many jobs as it does now," he

said.

Harker has attended and conducted studies on hundreds of events across North America. He praised Canal Days for its unique setting and family atmosphere, deeming it a worthwhile event to attend.

A full version of the report is available on The Tribune's website, www.wellandtribune.ca.

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GIANT TIGER

200 FITCH STREET WELLAND

LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS DEALS!!

2 DAYS ONLY!!

FRIDAY DEC. 23RD AND SATURDAY DEC. 24TH

SHOP EARLY!!! WHILE QUANTITIES LAST!!!



1/2 PRICE!

DOOR CRASHER!!!
ORVILLE REDENBACHER'S SMART POP POPCORN



\$3.48

- BUTTERY FLAVOUR
- 10X80 GRAM BAGS
- TRANS FAT FREE
- REGULAR \$9.97

LIMIT 6

SAVE \$9.00!

MANUFACTURER'S CLEARANCE!
THICK AND THIRSTY BATH TOWEL



\$3.97

- 34"X64" • 35"X70"
- ASSORTED COLOURS
- COMBED COTTON
- REGULAR \$12.97

LIMIT 4

SAVE \$1.00!



CADBURY LONG FINGERS
\$5.97

- GREAT NOVELTY GIFT!
- 500 GRAMS
- REGULAR \$6.97

LIMIT 6

GREAT PRICE!



LEBEL ICE CREAM LOG CAKE
\$4.97

- MADE IN QUEBEC
- 2 LITRE
- REGULAR \$5.77

LIMIT 4

GREAT GIFT IDEA!



SUNBEAM HEATED NHL THROW
\$39.97

- 8" POWER CORD
- 5 YR. MFG. WARRANTY
- COMPARE AT \$59.99

LIMIT 1

GREAT GIFT IDEA!



AS SEEN ON T.V.!
SMORE-XPRESS MAKER
\$5.00

- MAKES SMORES IN JUST 10 SECONDS!
- COMPARE AT \$9.99

LIMIT 3

1/2 PRICE!

DOOR CRASHER!!!
CONNOISSEUR LIQUEUR CHOCOLATES



98¢

- VODKA SHOTS
- IRISH CREAM
- GRAND MARNIER
- 50 GRAM
- REGULAR \$1.97

LIMIT 8

1/2 PRICE!



LECLERC SWEET AND SALTY GRANOLA BARS
\$1.23

- 10 PACK!
- PEANUT
- REAL MILK CHOCOLATE
- REGULAR \$2.49

LIMIT 8

1/2 PRICE!



SIMPLY FIT SMART FRIES SNACKS
98¢

- VINEGAR SPLASH
- SEA SALT
- HONEY BBQ
- 85 GRAM
- REGULAR \$1.97

LIMIT 6

SAVE \$1.00!



REGENCY FRUIT CAKE
\$2.47

- LOADED WITH FRUIT!
- 40 GRAM
- REGULAR \$3.47

LIMIT 6

LESS THAN 1/2 PRICE!
SAVE \$6.00!



MANUFACTURER'S BLOW OUT!
FABRIC TABLECLOTHS
\$3.97

- 52"X70"
- 60"X84"
- WIDE ASSORTMENT OF COLOURS, PATTERNS
- REGULAR \$9.97

LIMIT 4

GREAT GIFT IDEA!



AS SEEN ON T.V.!
MAGIC BOWL™ "THE BOWL THAT NEVER SPILLS!"
\$7.00

- ROTATES 360° IN ALL DIRECTIONS
- MICROWAVEABLE
- COMPARE AT \$14.99

LIMIT 3

Fitch St. Plaza



GIANT TIGER

Prince Charles Dr.

FITCH STREET WELLAND STORE ONLY!!!